

wife, Anna, to pack extra sandwiches or burritos for lunch to share with someone he knew was in need. When one of his co-workers died with no next of kin, he took it upon himself to contact the Veteran's Administration and gather all the necessary paperwork to ensure that he was given a proper burial. This was typical of Daniel. Always compassionate; always generous.

As often remembered by his family, when challenges presented themselves, a few of his favorite sayings to bring encouragement were "Help is on the way!" "Trust in Almighty God!" and "All things are possible if you only believe." How could one not feel better after hearing those words?

As a young man growing up on the south side of Tucson, Danny attended Sunnyside High School, where he excelled in varsity track and field and cross country, winning various awards and competitions. His specialty was the 100-yard dash, where he went on to win the city championship. He also played varsity football. Daniel loved sports and enjoyed going to games with his family or watching them on TV with his son. His passion for sports would not be complete if we did not mention how much he enjoyed watching and rooting for the U of A Wildcats.

Daniel loved his family. He enjoyed spending time with his mother, Jane, visiting his aunts and uncles, and sharing family time with his sisters, brothers, and cousins. He also enjoyed his visits with his mother-in-law, Maria Luisa, and the extended family gatherings. He especially enjoyed his time with his wife and children. Family dinners, traveling, historical sites, and church events were happily spent together.

On January 23, 2023, Daniel entered into his rest surrounded by his wife and son. Until we meet again, dear husband, father, brother, and friend, you will be fondly remembered and deeply missed.

Daniel was predeceased by his daughter, Ann Marie Lofton-Arce, as well as his brothers, David and Jesse. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Mireya Anna Lofton; his son Daniel M. Lofton, Jr.; daughter-in-law, Angelica T. Lofton; and grandson, Zachary Arce. He is also survived by his sister, Lydia; step-sisters, Esther, Sylvia, Lourdes, Dolores, Alice, Rosemary and Emma; and stepbrothers, Michael and Arthur.

CELEBRATING THE 77TH ANNUAL VICTORIA LIVESTOCK SHOW

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the City of Victoria in celebrating the 77th annual Victoria Livestock Show. This year's show will take place from February 22 through 26, 2023.

The first Victoria Livestock Show was held in 1941. Shortly after, the show was suspended due to World War II. In 1947, the Victoria Jaycees decided to revive the livestock show, beginning with 4-H and FFA events in 1947 to pique people's interest. A show was put together a year later, and since then, it has been an annual Crossroads tradition.

The Victoria Livestock Show highlights the work that 4-H and FFA students have put into

raising and auctioning livestock. Today, it is larger than ever, with its 2021 auction raising more than \$820,000. In addition to the auction, a centerpiece of the Victoria Livestock show is the carnival, which includes rides, games, food, and even wiener dog races. Other fun activities include mutton bustin', goat roping, and the annual Queen Victoria pageant.

The Victoria Livestock Show embodies the heart of the Crossroads region, and I look forward to this year's show.

HONORING THE VACAVILLE PEOPLE'S FORUM

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Vacaville People's Forum in celebration of their 3rd annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Peace in the Park Parade.

Founded with the goal of amplifying the voices of underrepresented populations, the Vacaville People's Forum provides the invaluable service of informing local voters in often overlooked elections. Their work in holding elected officials accountable is a significant part of having an effective local government and an important job in Vacaville.

Their work includes highlighting outstanding members of our community on social media through campaigns like their "31 Inspiring Women in Vacaville," where they recognized inspiring women in industries ranging from healthcare and education to non-profits.

The Vacaville People's Forum further enriches their community by organizing events like the Martin Luther King, Jr., Peace in the Park Parade, the Pride in the Park, and the Be You 2022 Event for individuals with special needs, all of which were held within the last year.

These events are an essential part of our community. They bring us closer together and help fight the systemic issues that impact our most vulnerable populations. The hard work, commitment, and dedicated service of the Vacaville People's Forum on the 3rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Peace in the Park event showcases the best qualities of our community.

Mr. Speaker, the Vacaville People's Forum has been a source of quality debate for public officials and community building events in Vacaville. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that they are honored here today.

RECOGNIZING THE STRENGTH OF THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE AND RECOMMITTING TO SUPPORT THEIR FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY

HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the strength of the Ukrainian people after enduring one year of merciless attacks by Russian forces. February 24, 2023, marks one year since Vladimir Putin's unprovoked in-

vasion of Ukraine, which has claimed tens of thousands of lives and displaced millions of people.

When Putin ordered his tanks and forces into regions like Mariupol and Kharkiv, he thought Ukraine would fall in a matter of days. Instead of an easy victory, Putin's war of aggression has been a dismal failure.

In the past year, I visited Ukraine right before the Russian invasion and again this past summer. There, I saw clear evidence of Putin's war crimes—atrocities against civilians and children, and attacks on the Ukrainian people's very existence as a nation. I walked around St. Andrew's Church in Bucha where 116 people were buried in a mass grave because the city morgue was completely occupied. But I also saw Ukrainians display remarkable resilience and bravery, even when Russian forces attacked basic services and critical civilian infrastructure.

The people of Ukraine refuse to be forced into an authoritarian state where any opposition is met with jail, torture, or murder. They are prepared to pay the ultimate price for their freedom. Ukrainian armed forces and leadership, like President Zelensky, defend their homeland with skill, determination, and bravery.

I have met with many NATO members over the past year and am proud to report that NATO is stronger than ever. We are more united than ever in providing military, economic, and humanitarian assistance to support Ukraine's right to sovereignty.

The United States and our Western allies understand that Putin's invasion of Ukraine is not just a Ukraine problem, it's a battle between democracy and authoritarianism worldwide. We are delivering a strong and unequivocal answer: we will stand guard over freedom today, tomorrow, and forever.

Since the invasion, the United States has provided unprecedented support and coordination, which has helped the Ukrainian military make exponential gains. During my last trip, I told President Zelensky about his deep support from the Ukrainian-American community here in the United States. I have met with Parliamentarians from Ukraine throughout the war, twice in the past two months alone, as well as the Mayor of Kyiv, and it is always important to me to share the deep support they have from Americans from across the country.

Our area, which has one of the largest Ukrainian-American populations in the United States, has demonstrated remarkable generosity and determination to support the children, families, and servicemembers of Ukraine. The Ukrainian Cultural Center of NJ has shipped 18 containers to Ukraine with aid valued at over \$4 million. Local families have opened their homes to Ukrainians seeking refuge from the conflict. Our local governments and law enforcement have sent supplies, including equipment like bullet-proof vests.

Picatinny Arsenal in my congressional district has been integral to Ukraine's military success. They have developed the primary cannon being used by the Ukrainian army, and continue to be responsible for every piece of ammunition being sent by the United States to Ukraine. We are so proud of their work and dedication.

The U.S. and our fellow democracies must continue to support Ukraine in 2023 to prevent a new era of authoritarianism. I remain committed to protecting the fundamental values of

peace, prosperity, and stability across the globe.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
CLARENCE THORNTON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of a dedicated patriot, Clarence Thornton, of Hampton, Connecticut. Mr. Thornton, a devoted veteran, husband, and father, passed away at the age of 101 on February 6, 2023.

Born in 1921, in Pomfret, Connecticut, to George Howard and Frances Thornton, Clarence was a beloved native of Eastern Connecticut. Through the nurturing of his family, Clarence's capacity for devotion to his community and country was endless. One of the most prominent and early examples of Clarence's devotion was by way of his service in the Army during World War II. Aged 21, Clarence heeded our Nation's call to action and began his service as a Heavy Truck Driver in 1942. Throughout his military career, Private First Class Thornton joined Allied forces in the campaign to liberate Europe and preserve world order, serving in the offensives of Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Europe. Clarence was presented with several ribbons and medals for his honorable service.

Upon his honorable discharge in December 1945, Clarence returned to his native state of Connecticut, settling in Hampton, where he found new ways to give back to his community. Due to his striking resemblance to Abraham Lincoln, Clarence frequently portrayed the President during the town's Memorial Day Parades. He was also a hard worker who contributed to the local economy by way of several trades, including his precise touch for furniture making and painting homes in the surrounding region.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent patriots who are as humble, dutiful, and service-oriented as Clarence Thornton. Clarence will be forever remembered for his devotion to his large family and is specifically survived by his children: Keith and Michelle Thornton, Patricia Goodwin, Robert Thornton, Sandra and "Stretch" Thornton, Sharron and James Dickson, Sharlene Thornton; sister, Elsie May Johnson, and an even greater extended family. He was a beloved figure in town and his loss will continue to be felt throughout the region. To that end, I ask that my colleagues join me in observing the loss of Clarence Thornton.

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DIS-
CHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM
(NPDES)

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I re-introduce an amendment to the Clean Water Act extending permit terms for publicly owned

water infrastructure projects under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). I thank my colleague Congressman KEN CALVERT (R-CA) for his support as the original cosponsor again this Congress.

This bipartisan bill would simply extend the NPDES permit term for projects owned and operated by local public agencies like water districts from the current 5 years up to 10 years. NPDES permit terms for private projects or industrial discharges would remain at the current 5-year term.

The United States has fallen behind many other developed nations in wastewater infrastructure, receiving a D-plus grade in the American Society of Civil Engineers' most recent report card. One reason for this lapse in infrastructure modernization is arbitrary permitting timetables imposed by federal law. Permit terms should match the construction timelines and on-the-ground reality for the projects to which those permits apply. This is currently not the case. With over 95 percent of wastewater infrastructure spending at the local level, according to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, lengthening permit terms for local governments would be one of the most expeditious ways to encouraging further investment in 21st-century wastewater treatment and water recycling facilities.

Current NPDES permitting under the Clean Water Act has a maximum term of 5 years, an arbitrary timeline that is impracticable given prolonged construction schedules for local public agencies. As a result, California's State Water Resources Control Board and Clean Water Act regulators in other states are overwhelmed with a backlog of NPDES permitting requests for existing projects. New public projects are significantly delayed by this unnecessary bureaucracy, which also prevents regulators like California's State Water Resources Control Board from focusing on watershed-scale planning and water quality standards.

My bill would alleviate this burden by extending the maximum permit to 10 years, helping local water agencies nationwide better implement the Clean Water Act and cutting the current permitting backlog in half. Extending NPDES permit terms is a practical solution that allows local agencies to meet regulatory standards while building public water projects that measurably improve water quality, which after all is the purpose of the Clean Water Act.

In October 2019, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure passed my bill to allow States to issue NPDES permits with terms up to 10 years as part of then-Chairman DeFazio's bipartisan "Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019" (H.R. 1497). Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to cosponsor this bipartisan bill.

RECOGNIZING ALLEGHENY TOWN-
SHIP POLICE CHIEF LEO J.
BERG, III

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Allegheny Township Police Chief Leo J. Berg, III, and thank him for his 30 years of service to the Blair County community.

The hallmark of Chief Berg's time in law enforcement is the relationships he built within the community he served. From responding to medical emergencies to treating every person he met with respect and dignity, Chief Berg strived to treat everyone he interacted with fairly and with respect.

His tireless efforts to enforce the law and keep Blair County safe have been invaluable. Through his commitment to training and professionalism, the Chief has set an example for young officers that will continue to serve Allegheny Township well.

Chief Berg, and his wife of 39 years, Kim Berg, have been pillars of Allegheny Township, and in his retirement, Chief Berg will leave a lasting legacy.

On behalf of all of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank Chief Berg for his service and wish him every continued success.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, this February we celebrate the 23rd Black History Month. Black History Month is a time to honor the past contributions of Black people in American society and also to pay homage to those making progress currently and in the future. It is an annual celebration of achievements, reflection on challenges faced, and recognition of the central role of Black people in U.S. history.

Each Black History Month adopts a central theme. Last year's theme was "Black Health and Wellness;" this year, we focus on "Black Resistance." "Black Resistance" is a powerful message that refers to how, throughout history, African Americans have withstood, combatted, and opposed both intermittent or ongoing disadvantages and oppression. We've undergone being enslaved and having human and civil rights stripped away. For centuries, African Americans have faced enormous obstacles in numerous aspects of life, including education, economic security, healthcare, employment, housing, and criminal justice. African Americans routinely experience opportunity denial due to the color of our skin, and we continue to struggle for justice and equality for ourselves and communities in the face of systematic racism. In Chicago, as across the nation, Black families are more likely to live in poverty than white families, making it challenging to access decent education, health care, and other essential resources for a fulfilling life. Being Black in the United States is a complicated and multidimensional experience affected by historical, social, and cultural influences.

Black Resistance has helped overcome these barriers on the path to equality. African Americans have made enormous contributions to American culture, politics, and society. From the Civil Rights Movement to Black Lives Matter, Black people have battled for justice and equality. Their words and actions have molded the history and identity of our Nation. Black families have demonstrated Black Resistance—a remarkable endurance, fortitude, and perseverance in the face of adversity. Through all the pressures of life, Black